



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 06/24/2010

Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee

Thursday, June 24, 2010, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Kirsy Allison-Ampe, Don Benjamin, Bob Bowes, Roly Chaput, Tom Davison, Mike Ginns, Daniel Hodge, Carol Kowalski, Angela Olszewski, JoAnn Robinson, Clarissa Rowe, Sharon Shaloo, Howard Winkler

Not Present: Diane Mahon

Call to Order

The first meeting of the committee was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Committee members and associate members introduced themselves and briefly stated their interest in/reason for serving on the committee.

Battle Road Scenic Byway

Selectwoman Rowe presented an overview and update on the multi-town Scenic Byway project.

Challenges and Potential Projects

Led by Town Planner, Carol Kowalski, the committee discussed current challenges and potential projects that it might undertake relative to economic development and tourism in Arlington:

Challenges:

- No public restrooms for tourist busses (except the two in the Jefferson Cutter House)
- Will need to secure landlord/business buy-in to conduct space analysis of available retail space

Potential Projects:

- Implement short-term improvements in Arlington Center that were outlined in the commissioned Koff & Associates report on economic development of Mass Ave.
- Start a program to display local artists' work in empty storefronts (following model established in Pittsfield and later in Boston)
- Revive the outdoor Art Show on the grounds of Town Hall
- Other public art opportunities
- Form-based zoning
- Create vision/mission statement for TED Committee

Updates on Projects Underway in Arlington

- The Massachusetts Avenue Corridor Project, investment in infrastructure, is in second round of design
- Former Symmes Hospital Site: looking for new developer
- Former Brigham's Site: in review/approval process; July 12th will be the first presentation to the Arlington Redevelopment Board
- Mill Brook: task force report

Other Available Resources/Ideas from Other Communities

- Mount Auburn Associates undertakes cultural surveys of communities and might be consulted by TED
- Report of the Arlington Cultural Council Summit of Cultural Organizations and Businesses and Cultural Directory (from June 2009) ñ Sharon Shaloo will distribute
- Could use material from recent Downtown Initiative program workshop, which was presented by Peg Barringer, at an upcoming meeting
- Centre Street in Jamaica Plain may be a model for development goals for Arlington Center

Appointment of Officers

Angela Olszewski was appointed to serve as chair for the committee.

Sharon Shaloo was appointed to serve as clerk for the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.